

drained of labor, and to use local supply, as far as possible, for local demand. The situation, however, is such that in certain cases some men may have to be transported over long distances.

This is probably the most drastic action that the Government has taken since putting the Army draft into effect. It involves a basic change in the Nation's labor methods, and is significant and important in the present rapid socialization of medical practice.

A NON-ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY.

A non-essential industry of the first magnitude is the manufacture and sale of nostrums and patent medicines. Consider the ingredients which go into their composition, for instance, the alcohol. Food will win the war. Why waste it? Consider the cargo space necessary for their transportation. Why waste it? Consider the army engaged in their production, transport and sale. Why keep them harnessed to a non-essential occupation when there is room in the Army and Navy? Consider finally, the host of users of patent medicines, the gullible host of self-druggers, whose ranks are recruited through credulity and blatant advertising. Seldom, indeed, but that they would profit by freedom from their favorite patent medicine tinkle.

It would be well to tax patent medicines to the limit. With such a tax a sincere campaign by drug stores would go far to eliminate this pernicious American habit. Suppose the drug stores did lose money at first. Is that an argument for continued poisoning and swindling of the gullible public? The doctors seem to fight for public health and all it includes, often to their own monetary loss. Why should not the pharmaceutical profession take hold of this thing and oust it?

There is no disguising the fact that some doctors are a disgrace to the ethics and common practice of their profession in that they prescribe nostrums of secret composition. A determined campaign, however, among druggists and physicians would rapidly eliminate such reactionaries in both professions. It is greatly to be desired that patent medicines be ousted, and that the time and money now consumed in their provision and purchase, be diverted to direct war ends. True, as long as money is to be made, nostrums will be produced, and their elimination in this country will simply deluge less fortunate countries with their alcoholic and cure-all contents. Even now arrant fakes and discredited American patent medicines are being advertised and sold wholesale in China. But the civilizing process of popular education will follow them as surely as it may be slowly. For after all, this education in health, wholesomeness and real humanity is the dominating function and excuse for our own profession, and our own nation and our own race.

Says one drug house to its lay patrons, "We do not prescribe for your ills. That's your doctor's business. If you are really ill you cannot afford to take chances with the numerous so-called cure-alls, secret nostrums, or the new home prescription

preparations which are largely advertised. Go to a reputable physician, and if you need any medicine, let him advise you." Would that each doctor would set his own house in order and then confer with his druggists on the suppression of this non-essential, wasteful, unpatriotic and dangerous habit.

DEMOCRACY VS. TIPS.

Scribner's Magazine declared as far back as 1887 that "This whole matter of tipping waiters, and of waiters expecting to be tipped, is a very marked manifestation of the poison of pauperism." A recent newspaper told of the death of a waiter who bequeathed \$30,000. Query: Who is chief pauper, the giver or the recipient of a tip? Doubtless both. Persons and organizations have inveighed against tipping. Its evils have been heralded from the housetops. Its pernicious roots have been diligently excavated. His degrading tentacles have been execrated in song, story and resolution. Its infamous history will not be reviewed here nor will its notorious practice be the theme for condemnation or moralizing. All grant the evil of this ancient pest. All would have its abatement. Few are they who have the personal courage and manhood to stop it for themselves. The expression "manhood" is used with discrimination; for who associates this vice with "womanhood"? Have not we men something here, too, for study and learning?

Out of the great war have come certain good things. Others are dimly scanned in the misty future. As a war measure, alcohol is nearly eliminated. May the elimination be permanent! Equal suffrage has advanced mightily; fraternity, liberty, equality have become a ruling passion among men; venereal disease and prostitution are being attacked as never before in history; socialization of medicine is progressing by leaps; democracy is become a motive in the average man's breast. The war has furnished the stimulus, and the occasion—yes, even the excuse—for the accomplishment of many excellent and needed programs for human betterment. Why not, then, as a war measure, abolish tipping? What though it be one of our national and best-loved vices? We admit its evil. We agree that it is incompatible with democracy. Why not make occasion of the war to root it out? We are tearing from us the vastly better entrenched liquor vice. Here is another of the cult of nuisances. Let's away with it.

Abolish tipping as a war measure? Certainly. Let it be widely understood that no man in uniform is expected or allowed to give a tip. Let waiters and hat check persons and all other parasitical exponents of the upward palm feel that they are un-American and disloyal to the great vibrant spirit of democracy, if they under any circumstances accept a tip from a man in uniform. That much we ought to do and enforce. Then who would be a tipper and thus prejudice equal service to the man in uniform? No tips expected from men in uniform and none given. That is at least a good start.